

REMARKS

In the present office action, claims 1-13 and 15-19 are pending. Claims 1-13, and 15-18 were rejected and claim 19 was withdrawn. Applicants believe that claims 1-13 and 15-18 are allowable and respectfully request reconsideration and further examination thereof.

Claims 1-4, 9, 12, 13, and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,443,228 to Aronstam et al. (the '228 Patent). Claims 5-8, 10-11, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '228 Patent. In the May 6, 2003 response, Applicants presented a declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 by William Wang to establish conception of the invention prior to the effective date of the '228 Patent. Applicants hereby submit a supplemental affidavit which overcomes the Examiner's objections to this previously presented affidavit.

In view of these amendments, Applicants submit that the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not anticipate or make obvious the present invention as presently claimed. Applicants therefore believe that claims 1-13 and 15-18 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration and further consideration of the application.

If the Examiner has any questions or believes that a discussion with Applicants' attorney would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. Applicants have authorized the Commissioner to charge the Request for Continued Examination fee to Deposit Account Nº. 19-0615. Should this amount be incorrect or additional fees be due as a result of the amendments presented herewith, Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge or credit any deficiency/overpayment to Deposit Account Nº. 19-0615.

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Respectfully submitted,

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